



**3. Disability Needs** - The following tables list the priority problems from the MAG 1999-200 problem statements for Persons with Disabilities and next, for Persons with Developmental Disabilities.

<b>MAG PRIORITY PROBLEMS OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES</b>	
#1	More and better coordinated services, such as employment, training, transportation, affordable and accessible housing, attendant/personal care and dental care
#2	Lack of transportation
#3	Lack of information, training, skills or assistance to access services
#4	Limited access to social and recreational programs
#5	Early information and intervention at onset of disability
#6	Limited access to public and private buildings due to non-compliance with the ADA
#7	Lack of sensitivity and peer mentoring in the workplace

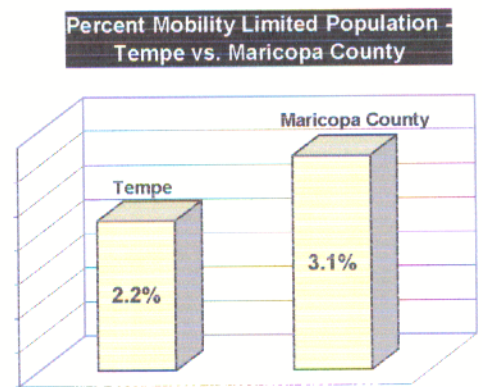
<b>MAG PRIORITY PROBLEMS OF PERSONS WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES</b>	
#1	Limited access to early services for children with developmental disabilities
#2	More information and education for teens and adults on how drug abuse, poor nutrition and child abuse may cause developmental disabilities
#3	Limited or no access to year around community and day support services, such as respite, socialization and recreation
#4	Better access to meaningful employment for those exiting the school system
#5	Better information and education on the nature of developmental disabilities
#6	Inability to care for personal needs
#7	Inability to secure supported living situations
#8	New problems for aging people with developmental disabilities, such as retirement, physical and social problems of aging, need for conservators and guardians.

*Transportation* is a key need for people with disabilities. A “Special Transportation Needs Study” was recently completed through the Maricopa Association of Governments (MAG). The initial report, “Identification of Need”, states that the target groups for special needs transportation are “not homogenous and easily defined.” Those *target groups* include mixtures of *low income*, *elderly* and *people with mental and physical disabilities*, all of whom are limited in some way in getting around. The report cites the following numbers for Tempe, compared with Maricopa County:

Area	1990 Total Population	1995 Total Population	% Change	1995 Elderly Population (65+)	Mobility Limited			
					1990 Census		1995 Census	
					Age 16 –64	Age 65+	Age 16 –64	Age 65+
<b>Tempe</b>	141,865	153,821	8%	10,785	1,267	1,136	1,784	1,600
<b>Maricopa County</b>	2,104,074	2,551,765	21%	321,834	24,377	32,565	34,330	45,862

The above table shows a total of **3,384** estimated “mobility limited” people in Tempe in 1995 (1,784 age 16-64 and 1,600 age 65+), or **2.2%** of the total Tempe population. This compares with 80,192 such persons in the County as a whole or **3.1%** of the total County population (see chart to the right).

It should be remembered that these numbers do not necessarily refer to all those with disabilities, over 22,000 in Tempe, only those who have a physical or mental limitation that makes it difficult to go outside the home alone.



MAG lists these items regarding needs of people with disabilities:

#### **Economic Needs**

- Three out of four people with disabilities do not work. But two-thirds of those not working wish they could without jeopardizing their disability benefits (1994 Harris Poll).
- Approximately 77,000 Arizonans currently draw Social Security disability benefits - average benefit, \$760 per month.
- It is estimated that for every 1 percent of people with disabilities who work, \$3 billion is saved over the long term.
- In the prime employment years of 21 to 54, 82% of Americans *without* a disability had a job or business, compared with 77% of those with a nonsevere disability and 26% of those with a severe disability (the rate for those with a severe disability was 23% in 1991).

#### **Access and Social Participation**

- One-quarter (24%) of the respondents to the 1994 Harris Poll said access to public buildings was a problem for them.
- Half of the Harris Poll respondents said lack of a full social life was a problem for them - 30% socialize with friends, relatives or neighbors less than once a week, compared to 14% of those without disabilities.

#### **Technology Usage**

- People with disabilities are less than half as likely as their non-disabled counterparts to have access to a computer at home: 23.9% vs. 51.7% (National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research study, March 2000).
- People with disabilities are much less likely to be able to connect with the Internet, at home (11.4% vs. 31.1%).

**4. Children & Youth Needs**—Risk indicators provide information about human service needs that can be tracked over a period of time. There are many such indicators available and deciding which ones are the most appropriate and helpful can be challenging. Also, if the chosen indicators are to be tracked over time, the reliability of the sources and the relative ease of retrieval become important factors.

As one example, the table below shows indicators of child well-being from the Children at Risk State Trends 1990 - 2000 of the Annie E. Casey Foundation.

